

## Pike's Passage Facts

- Pike's Passage was chosen as the name of this section of the Water Trail, since the Mississippi River is bordered on both sides by Pike County, Illinois and Missouri.
- Zebulon Pike, for which the two counties are named, was a soldier and explorer. He was the leader of the Pike expedition in 1806 to map out the south and west portions of the Louisiana Purchase.
- Pike's Passage (Pool 24) is 27.8 river miles long.
- The cities of Louisiana and Clarksville sit along the Mississippi River and provide paddlers the best opportunities to access convenience stores, restaurants, lodging, and equipment repairs.
- There are some structures, such as wing dikes and chevrons, around shorelines or islands, which direct the main flow of water into the channel and/or improve aquatic habitat.
- Built in 1873, the Louisiana Railroad Swingspan Bridge is 2150 feet long.
- Lock & Dam 24 provides an average lift of 15 feet. The Dam is 1,340 feet long with 15 tainter gates and one lock chamber.

## What is a Water Trail?

Water trails are recreational waterways on a lake, river or ocean between specific points, containing access points, day use, and/or primitive camping sites for the boating public. Serving as ribbons of discovery, water trails create educational opportunities, promote a healthy economy and high quality of life while preserving natural and cultural heritage.

***Water trails emphasize low-impact use and promote stewardship of the resources.***

[www.GreatRiverWaterTrail.org](http://www.GreatRiverWaterTrail.org)

### For more information contact:

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Rivers Project Office  
301 Riverlands Way  
West Alton, Missouri 63386  
Phone: 888.899.2602

<http://www.mvs.usace.army.mil/Rivers/>

National Great Rivers Museum  
P.O. Box 337  
Alton, Illinois 62002  
Phone: 618.462.6979

***Special thanks to the Mississippi River Water Trail Association, St. Louis County Canoe & Kayak Club, City of Clarksville, City of Louisiana, and the American Canoe Association for their assistance during the development of the Mississippi River Water Trail.***

### Water Trail Partners:



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers®**

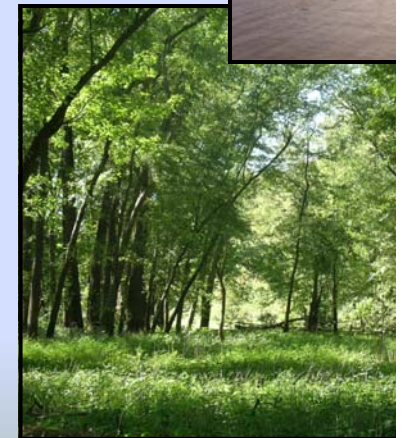


# Mississippi River

Saverton, Missouri / Lock & Dam 24  
to Clarksville, Missouri / Lock & Dam 25



Photo by Brian Hartwig



Nature is only a P

# er Water Trail

/ Lock & Dam 22  
ri / Lock & Dam 24



## Pike's Passage



## Day Use & Camping

Camping and day use areas are designated along the trail with signs corresponding with map numbering. Only designated areas should be used for camping, since all of the points are located on public lands.

### Camping & Day Use Rules

- Gathering of fire wood on the ground is permitted.
- Cutting firewood is prohibited.
- All fires in containment grills only. No ground fires. All fires should be completely extinguished prior to departure.
- All trash should be removed from the area upon departure. Please pack out what you pack in.
- Maximum of one tent per boat.
- Maximum of one night stay at camp sites.



### Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Dispose of Waste Properly
  - Deposit solid human waste in catholes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cathole when finished.
  - Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products.
- Leave What You Find
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors

\*For more information on "Leave No Trace" outdoor ethics, go to [www.Int.org](http://www.Int.org).

## Safety Information

### Paddling Safety & Tips

- Wear your life jacket.
- Be prepared to swim.
- Never boat alone.
- If you collide with an obstruction, lean toward it.
- File a float plan with a relative or friend.  
[http://www.seakayakermag.com/PDFs/float\\_plan.pdf](http://www.seakayakermag.com/PDFs/float_plan.pdf)
- Paddle within your experience and fitness levels.
- Confine your first few outings to calm backwater areas.
- Consider taking a paddling safety course.
- Be familiar with capsize recovery techniques.
- Carry the right gear.
- Always check weather forecasts and river conditions before setting out.
- Paddle in groups whenever possible and know the experience levels of those in the group.  
REMEMBER: a group travels as fast as its slowest member.
- Dress for the water temperature not the air temperature.
- Do not use alcohol or drugs when paddling.
- Conditions change - water levels, currents, winds and waves can vary day to day.
- Stay alert for submerged objects and be prepared for unruly currents around bridges, wing dams, and other structures.

### Hazards on the Water

Cold Water-waters of the Mississippi River are first to cool off and last to warm up. For river temperatures for Locks and Dams 22 & 24 visit <http://mvs.cswc.mvs.usace.army.mil/trans/gages.html>.

Commercial Traffic-Barge traffic runs within the navigational channel, designated by the green and red buoys. Paddlers should not travel in the main channel.

a Paddle away!

# Things to Bring

It is important to have the right supplies when paddling on any waterway. Be sure to have the following when paddling on the river.

- Lifejacket
- Drinking Water
- Map
- Sunscreen
- Food
- First aid kit
- Flashlight
- Bug repellent
- Marine radio
- Towel
- Small trash bag
- Cell Phone
- GPS Unit
- Complete change of clothes



## Paddle Your Way to a Healthier Lifestyle...

Paddling provides numerous health and fitness benefits including: overall body toning, weight loss, strength, flexibility, and stress reduction. It is easy on joints and allows an individual to increase their endurance and stamina. Paddling is a great aerobic workout and makes your heart and circulatory system stronger.



**Fact:** Kayak moving about 5 mph, requires about 0.1 hp of effort which will burn about 400 calories per hour; four hours of paddling is going to burn about 1600 calories!

Source: [www.kayaklakemead.com](http://www.kayaklakemead.com)

## **Trips for Beginners**

### **Ted Shanks Conservation Area - Horseshoe Lake Area:**

A safe place to practice paddling strokes and rescue techniques. Horseshoe Lake provides the perfect area for early season exploration and adventure. Ideal paddling times are spring and early mornings in the summer.

### **Ted Shanks Conservation Area - Salt River Access:**

The Salt River Access is typically slow unless there have been heavy rains or water release from the Mark Twain Lake Dam. Put in and take out at the boat launch ramp unless shuttles have been arranged for a paddle to Louisiana.

### **Calumet Creek Natural Area:**

If you are looking for a nice creek paddle with little current this is the paddle for you. Enjoy a leisurely one mile paddle up to the Calumet Creek Paddle-In Primitive Campground and enjoy the sights and sounds of nature. This trip will take 1 to 2 hours.

### **Gosline Access Area - Gosline Island:**

This trip is sure to delight paddlers with diverse wildlife and unique river features. The normally quiet slough is perfect for beginners. After launching at the ramp go right and paddle up the slough until it opens to the main river channel. Return to the launch ramp via the slough. This trip will take 1 to 2 hours. Put in and take out at the boat launch ramp.

### **Louisiana Riverfront to Noix Creek Paddle:**

Paddle one mile downstream staying close to the Missouri shoreline to Noix Creek. Paddle up Noix Creek and experience this beautiful scenic area before returning to the Louisiana Riverfront. This trip will take 1 to 2 hours. Put in at the Louisiana Riverfront.

### **Louisiana Riverfront to Salt River:**

Paddle upstream staying close to the Missouri shoreline to the Salt River. Explore this beautiful Mississippi River tributary before returning to the Louisiana Riverfront. Put in at the Louisiana Riverfront.

### **Two Rivers Marina:**

At the Two Rivers North Access Area and follow the shoreline downstream to Two Rivers Marina. Here you can visit the marina store for supplies. Once you have finished exploring the marina travel across the main channel to Louisiana. This trip will take 1 to 2 hours and will require a short shuttle back to your vehicle.

## **Trips for Intermediate**

### **Louisiana to MDC Calumet Creek Access:**

This trip will take you on an adventure down river ending midway between Louisiana and Clarksville. This paddle includes visits to Noix Creek, Illinois Slough, and Paddlers Pass. The paddle will take between 4 and 5 hours. Put in at the Louisiana Riverfront.

### **MDC Calumet Creek Access to Silo Access:**

This trip will take you up river to explore Calumet Creek, Silo Access Area and the Pharrs Island complex. Pharrs island has numerous backwater areas within the island interior for paddlers to explore.

This paddle will take 3 to 4 hours and will require a short shuttle back to your vehicle.

### **Silo Access to Calumet Creek:**

Enjoy the beauty of Silo Access Area as you launch your boat at the launch ramp. Paddle downstream to Calumet Creek, across to Middleton Island, and return to Silo Access by paddling upstream.

## **Trips for Adv**

### **Louisiana to Clarksville:**

Make it a day or stay overnight. explore the lower section of the a picnic lunch on an island, and e through at Locks and Dam 24. P areas are located along the trail, venture is desired.

### **Saverton to Louisiana:**

This trip will require shuttling to ramp. An adventure awaits on the tion of trail that encourages adventure.

### **Saverton to Dupont Access:**

This trip will take half a day and is adventure for the paddler.

### **Dupont Access to Louisiana:**

Take time to explore and have a the large sand island. This trip is adventure.

### **Louisiana to Paddlers Pass:**

Enjoy the mighty Mississippi by e Paddlers Pass. This unique area islands provides perfect water for paddling skills. It also provides a for a picnic lunch or observing p practice their skills.



**Note: Paddling times may vary conditions, weather and the p**

## Advanced

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## Water Trail Association

The Mississippi River Water Trail is being developed by the US Army Corps of Engineers and partnering organizations in response to public requests for a water trail on the Mississippi River within the St. Louis District boundary. The Corps has developed day use rest areas, primitive camping areas, watchable wildlife and interpretive opportunities on the Mississippi River.

The Mississippi River Water Trail was established through the American Canoe Association to support and enhance the Mississippi River Water Trail and encourage community involvement.

The association showcases the Mississippi River as a paddling destination rich with cultural heritage, wildlife, natural areas and history. The association will promote and encourage safe paddling opportunities on the Mississippi River.

Volunteers will provide support by maintaining trail rest areas, primitive campsites and facilities to ensure quality recreational opportunities for paddlers.

The association will promote safety awareness and provide activities, events, and educational opportunities. The water trail association will also facilitate collaboration with communities, organizations, and agencies to foster sound safety and conservation practices along the river.



## Hunting Seasons

Water trail users need to be aware of their surroundings for not only barge traffic, but hunting seasons as well. The blinds covered with vegetation cuttings located in the river are known as duck blinds, which are used for waterfowl hunting. Some temporary blinds may be used on a daily basis. Refer to state regulations for additional information.

In general, waterfowl seasons start on September 1st and ends on March 31st. Deer seasons start October 1st and end on January 15th. There may be shotgun or archery deer hunting on islands, as well as other state managed lands.

Canvasback



Photo by Brian Hartwig

Lesser Scaup

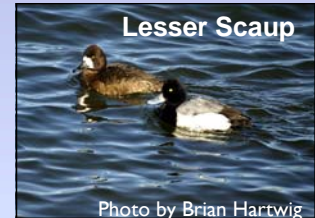


Photo by Brian Hartwig

## Hike, Bike, & Paddle

The Mississippi River Water Trail encourages people to reconnect to their river by exploring and experiencing the river from the water. The trail is an important component of the outdoor recreation experiences already available on the river. The water trail compliments the existing hiking and bike trails along the river. Suggestions for compatible hike, bike, paddle locations are listed below.

### Paddle/Pedal Trail Routes:

Louisiana to Clarksville

MDC Calumet Creek Access to Clarksville

Louisiana to MDC Calumet Creek Access

# Locking Through

## **Safety information:**

- There is no fee for locking through.
- Stay out of posted/restricted areas.
- Stay in your boat when locking through.

## **Locking Through:**

- Inform lock that you want to lock through by pulling the small boat signal chain located at the end of the wall or call lock on marine radio.
- Enter lock when gates are fully open and you received the green signal light to enter.
- While in the lock, stay in the center of the chamber, away from walls. (You may be given special instructions by lock staff)
- One short blast designates that lockage is complete, and you may exit the lock.



## **Hazards around Towboats:**

Source: *Locks & the River: A boater's guide to safe travels on the Upper Mississippi River and the Illinois Waterway* (US Army Corps of Engineers).

## **Other Paddling Tips:**

Paddling close to shore is the best way to go upstream. There are upstream currents in spots to assist you but you may need to paddle around snags.

## **Paddling at night is not recommended:**

Since there are no lights on kayaks, canoes, and row boats, federal and state regulations say you **MUST** carry a white light (flashlight) which can be displayed in sufficient time to prevent collision.